

Missouri Assessment Program Spring 2005

Communication Arts

Released Items

Grade 11

Acknowledgments: CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC is indebted to the following for permission to use material in this book.

“A Red Palm” from *New and Selected Poems* by Gary Soto, copyright © 1995. Reprinted by permission of Chronicle Books, San Francisco.

The **McGraw-Hill** Companies



Developed and published under contract with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 20 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, California 93940-5703. Copyright © 2005 by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. All rights reserved. Only State of Missouri educators and citizens may copy, download and/or print the document, located online at <http://www.dese.state.mo.us>. Any other use or reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, requires written permission of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the publisher.

Directions

This poem by Gary Soto is about the responsibility a father experiences to support his family. Read the poem. Then answer Numbers 5 through 10.

A Red Palm

by Gary Soto

You're in this dream of cotton plants.
You raise a hoe, swing, and the first weeds
Fall with a sigh. You take another step,
Chop, and the sigh comes again,
Until you yourself are breathing that way
With each step, a sigh that will follow you into town.

That's hours later. The sun is a red blister
Coming up in your palm. Your back is strong,
Young, not yet the broken chair
In an abandoned school of dry spiders.
Dust settles on your forehead, dirt
Smiles under each fingernail.
You chop, step, and by the end of the first row,
You can buy one splendid fish for wife
And three sons. Another row, another fish,
Until you have enough and move on to milk,
Bread, meat. Ten hours and the cupboards creak.
You can rest in the back yard under a tree.
Your hands twitch on your lap,
Not unlike the fish on a pier or the bottom
Of a boat. You drink iced tea. The minutes jerk
Like flies.

It's dusk, now night,
And the lights in your home are on.
That costs money, yellow light
In the kitchen. That's thirty steps,
You say to your hands,
Now shaped into binoculars.
You could raise them to your eyes:
You were a fool in school, now look at you.
You're a giant among cotton plants,
The lung-shaped leaves that run breathing for miles.
Now you see your oldest boy, also running.
Papa, he says, it's time to come in,
You pull him into your lap
And ask, What's forty times nine?
He knows as well as you, and you smile.
The wind makes peace with the trees,
The stars strike themselves in the dark.
You get up and walk with the sigh of cotton plants.
You go to sleep with a red sun on your palm,
The sore light you see when you first stir in bed.

Go On ►

7

How does the poet use the image of a fish in the poem? Use details and/or examples from the poem to support your explanation.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Go On ►

10

Create an appropriate graphic organizer in which you give two descriptions of the man's hands and explain how each description relates to the man's life.

Your graphic organizer may be a chart, graph, diagram, drawing, cluster, web, mind map, Venn diagram, or any other organizer.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Go On ►

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

You have read passages that deal with personal decisions that affect others. Write a paper to persuade a classmate that personal decisions affect other people.

Go On ►

FINAL COPY

Directions

Now you have time to revise your draft. Reread your draft and think about the Writer's Checklist below. Check every box that makes a true statement about your draft.

Writer's Checklist



- ☐ My paper has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ My paper includes effective use of paragraphing.
- ☐ My paper stays on the topic.
- ☐ My paper flows smoothly from one idea to another.
- ☐ My paper contains a strong controlling idea.
- ☐ My paper includes specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples.
- ☐ My paper uses precise and vivid language.
- ☐ My paper contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- ☐ My paper includes correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

For every box you did not check, make the necessary revisions on your draft before you write your final copy on Pages 5 through 9.

[illegible]

Session 2 | Page 5

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑

[illegible]

DO NOT WRITE HERE 

Go On ►

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑ DO NOT WRITE HERE ↑

[illegible]

●

DO NOT WRITE HERE ↗

STOP